


BOROUGH OF
HALESOWEN



ANNUAL REPORT

PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

1965



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BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN

REPORT

of the work of the

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

for the year

1965

THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1965

Chairman

Alderman C. WILLETTS, C.C.

Vice-Chairman

Councillor K. W. JOHNSON

The Mayor

Councillor R. BLAKEWAY, J.P.

Members

Alderman N. GARNER; Councillors R. J. BIRD, A. BRODIE,
A. N. BROWN, C.C., W. J. C. RAY, D.F.C.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

C. W. J. HINGSTON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.T.M. & H., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

J. TWOMEY, M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., N.U.I., D.T.M. & H., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Officer:

A. ARCHER (a.b.c.)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

A. R. HUMPHRIES (a.b.c.)

District Public Health Inspectors:

B. L. BREAKWELL (a.b.)

A. A. D. CHARLES (a.b.) (until 30.11.65).

J. RICHARDS (a.b.)

D. SPURRIER (a.b.c.)

Pupil Public Health Inspectors:

R. J. SHAW

R. J. WILDE

Technical Assistant:

P. WATSON

Chief Clerk:

G. W. J. LEWIS

Clerk to Medical Officer of Health:

Mrs. P. PETERS

Secretary to the Chief Public Health Inspector:

Mrs. H. DEELEY (until July, 1965)

Mrs. H. COTHILL (from September, 1965)

Clerks:

Mrs. M. CHECKETTS

Miss V. MEREDITH

Mrs. A. WILLIAMSON (from February 1965)

(b) Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate.

(a) Public Health Inspector's Certificate.

(c) Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1965

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Halesowen.

Mr. Mayor, I have the honour to present for your consideration my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year ending 31st December, 1965.

I am happy to state that the health of the community remained satisfactory throughout the year and that apart from the usual increased number of cases of Measles one would expect in a measles year, there was no abnormal incidence of any other diseases affecting the community to any degree.

“ Infectious Diseases ”

A sporadic case of Paratyphoid is worth noting. This case concerned a lady who worked in a food handling job. She reported ill to her doctor at the end of January and was found to be suffering from paratyphoid fever. This necessitated examining 8 other persons who also worked at the same site in the food trade and all were found to be quite healthy. Numerous samples of food were also sent for bacteriological examination but were all found to be quite normal.

Her immediate family and all home contacts were also examined and a 6 month old child was also found to have the organism in her stool, only on one occasion. Both cases were treated at home and strict hygiene precautions were taken to avoid infecting other members of the family.

Altogether 20 stool samples were analysed from the home contacts i.e. 4 people including the baby whose stool remained consistently negative after the first course of treatment. No less than 26 consecutive specimens from the original case were taken between the end of January and the 10th of June and all remained positive. After a third course of treatment however, the first negative was reported on 17th June and 6 consecutive stool and urine samples were also negative, the last specimen being taken on 6th of August indicating her freedom from infection.

This case illustrates the fact that quick action taken in isolating the original case and prompt follow up by the Health Department and the Public Health Laboratory Service can prevent the likely spread of this organism in the community. It also illustrates the case that an infected person although to all outward appearance is quite

fit, may harbour this organism for over 6 months. In spite of being a known excretor of this organism, the four other persons at home remained free of infection because of strict hygiene precautions taken, although the infected case continued to prepare food for the rest of her family. As is common with isolated cases the source of the infection was never traced.

I am happy to say that the number of cases of respiratory T.B. reported for the year were lower than any for the last 12 years. This downward trend should continue if protection of susceptible cases with B.C.G. is combined with careful supervision of known T.B. cases in the home and careful checks are made on Long-Stay Immigrants soon after entry to this country.

“ Vital Statistics ”

The number of births exceeded deaths by 269 and the total mid-year population increased by 250 over last year.

The number of deaths in infants during the first week of life increased from 8 to 14, the Stillbirths reduced from 11 to 10. Due to the increased loss in the first week of life the Perinatal Mortality Rate increased from 25.8 to 31.7.

Deaths from Lung Cancer increased from 16 in 1964 to 26 in 1965 and deaths from Coronary disease remains the greatest single killer with 108 deaths compared with 111 last year.

“ Legislation and Health Education ”

Efforts to promote Health by talks, lectures and discussions on topics of Environmental Health continues by members of the department. The pattern of Health Education and its effect on people especially in relation to the use of mass media has altered over the last decade. The battle for a better environment continues and whereas most authorities would now accept any new schemes for improving water supplies, sewerage, and refuse disposal systems in an area without questioning the underlying benefit to health, there are other equally important fields in which legislation still leaves the local authority the right to accept or refuse such benefits which are offered. These are seen in such spheres as the Clean Air Act which if accepted by a local authority limits the production of smoke in our atmosphere to the benefit of all. Another is Fluoridation of public water supplies, where adjustment of the existing fluoride levels in the natural waters would bring better health to many in our community. The delay in implementation of these procedures is still due in some areas to refusal based on emotional rather than rational argument, and with regard to fluoridation where acceptance has been reached, the long delay in implementing such a scheme is often due to technical and economic reasons.

However strong the argument, however great the need, more and more authorities are being faced with problems, the answers for which cannot be imposed by any simple method which would affect the population at large, because the answer lies in the willing acceptance and action of the individual to carry out some procedure for his or her personal benefit. Thus health measures designed to affect the community at large can be helped by legislation, but with health measures involving a great measure of personal acceptance legislation has little or no effect.

Thus we might provide an excellent sanitary milieu whereby a person can have an abundant hot water supply, soap, towels, wash basins, and at the same time the individual may ignore the advice to wash his hands after going to the toilet, despite glaring reminders upon the wall to do so.

No legislation on earth could assure that each and every person performs this simple task because in the end the choice is personal. We see the importance of the individual choice in other matters such as cigarette smoking and Lung Cancer;—in accidents in the home resulting from carelessness and the failure of the individual to take simple precautions; — the acceptance by the individual of the life saving procedure of immunisation against an ever increasing number of diseases; — the acceptance by the individual to use diagnostic clinics, designed to discover any abnormality at a sufficiently early stage to assure successful treatment, and so prevent the individual from years of illness or from an early death. Clinics carrying out this multi-screening work can assure freedom of disease in the womb, breast, eyes, kidneys, heart, blood etc. and examination necessitates neither time consuming nor painful procedures. A start in this direction has now been made at Highfield Lane Clinic, Hales-owen with regard to Cervical Smears, and I hope that women will take this opportunity to use this service provided.

Health Education is thus becoming a much more personal matter to be accepted or not on a personal basis. Legislation can help as with the Consumer Protection Act whereby ready made nightdresses for children must be flameproof. Does legislation go far enough or could it go further when one considers that for every child under 5 years of age who dies of fatal burns in the home, there are seven elderly people who suffer the same fate in the same manner and for the same reason? Their ready made clothing has no such legislation safeguards.

Greater safety design in cars would also reduce the number of crush injuries. Similarly we could legislate that all new cars must be fitted with safety harness for the driver and front seat passenger, and so reduce the number of serious accidents but again in the end it is left to the individual to use this safety belt at all times even for the shortest journeys.

Because of the impracticability of enforcing such laws except under conditions comparable to George Orwell's "1984," it must of necessity be left to the individual to accept the most sensible safety measures available on a voluntary basis. This principle may be all right where effective Health Education results in a massive response but can we be satisfied when the response is poor, especially in matters affecting the younger age groups?

As the public are continually subjected to a mass of commercial propaganda from every level on every subject, it is little wonder, that the listener often fails to recognise the importance of such a non-commercial subject as health, and will the listener have any capacity left to rationalise and come to a considered opinion on matters affecting his health, and for which there is no effective legislation to replace the personal decision necessary.

To reinforce the impact on the public of talks, discussions, film shows, radio, and T.V. in Health Education, a more personal approach is necessary and this is where the individual efforts of Doctors, Nurses and Health Inspectors, Health Visitors etc. are so essential, if greater numbers of people are to accept the advice we advocate in matters of positive health and preventive medicine in general.

"Geriatric and Domiciliary Services"

I am glad to say the work with the elderly continues to expand and in 1965 we saw the appointment of a full time Health Visitor to cover this work in Halesowen and Stourbridge. The important supporting domiciliary services of Meals on Wheels and Home Helps continued under the able direction of Miss Bridge in charge of the W.V.S.

I would like to conclude by expressing my thanks to Alderman C. Willetts, C.C., Chairman of the Public Health Committee and all other members of the Public Health Committee.

My thanks to the Town Clerk, Mr. J. B. McCooke, and all other Chief Officers and their staff for their co-operation.

I should like to record my appreciation of the work carried out by Dr. R. J. Henderson, Director of the Public Health Laboratory Service, Worcester, who has given this department his help and advice over the year.

Lastly, I wish to thank Dr. J. Twomey for his help at all times and to Mr. A. Archer, the Chief Public Health Inspector, and his entire staff, to Mr. G. Lewis the Chief Clerk and Mrs. Peters, Secretary to the Medical Officer of Health, for their willing co-operation and help during the year 1965.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

C. W. J. HINGSTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1966.

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions

Area of the district	5,247 acres
Population census, 1961	44,445
Population (R.G.'s est. June 1965)	45,440
Rateable Value (31st December, 1965)	£1,981,740
Sum represented by the penny rate (est.)	£8,040
Number of inhabited dwellings at the end of 1965	15,730
Number of persons per dwelling	2.8

The Borough of Halesowen is easily accessible for industrial purposes to the Black Country, but fortunately it forms part of the northern area of the beautiful County of Worcestershire. It is partly industrial, partly residential and partly agricultural. The prevailing wind comes from the rural belt surrounding the Borough.

The larger industrial plants in the Borough comprise the manufacturing of tube and tube fittings, the manufacture and machining of heavy forgings for the marine, electrical and mining industries, the production of die blocks for the drop forging industry, drop forging, the polishing of stainless steel, and the manufacture of brick and fire-clay goods. The lighter industries include the making of buttons, spades, shovels, forks, electric motors, and the manufacture of clothes.

Deaths in Halesowen

Male	Female	Total
254	224	478

Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ...	10.5
Area comparability factor	1.21
Adjusted death rate	12.7
Death rate for England and Wales	11.5

The adjusted death rate is obtainable by multiplying the crude death rate by the area comparability factor.

The following vital statistics relate to mothers and infants for 1965:

Live Births:

Number 747

Rate per 1,000 population 16.4

Illegitimate Live Births (per cent. of total live births) 4.0

Stillbirths:

Number 10

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births 13.2

Total Live and Still Births 757

Infant Deaths (deaths under one year) 16

Infant Mortality Rates:

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births 21.4

Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 22.3

Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births...Nil

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births) 21.4

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births) 18.7

Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) 31.7

Maternal Mortality Rate including abortion per 1,000 total live and still births for Halesowen Nil

Neo-natal Mortality Rate infant deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births for England and Wales 13.0

Birth rate adjusted by comparability factor of 0.97 15.9

Birth rate of England and Wales 18.1

Still birth rate for England and Wales 15.8

Perinatal Mortality Rate for England and Wales 26.9

Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales 19.0

VITAL STATISTICS

	Males			Females		
	Total	Legit.	Illegit.	Total	Legit.	Illegit.
Live Births ...	390	377	13	357	340	17
Still Births ...	7	6	1	3	3	—
Deaths of Infants:						
Under 1 year of age	9	9	—	7	7	—
Under 4 weeks of age	9	9	—	7	7	—
Under 1 week of age	8	8	—	6	6	—

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	16	10
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	25	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	9
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15	19
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1
16. Diabetes	2	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	29	33
18. Coronary disease, angina	63	45
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	7
20. Other heart disease	16	34
21. Other circulatory disease	7	6
22. Influenza	—	1
23. Pneumonia	9	8
24. Bronchitis	23	8
25. Other disease of respiratory system	2	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—
31. Congenital malformations	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	22	19
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	1
34. All other accidents	4	10
35. Suicide	3	—
	<hr/> 254 <hr/>	<hr/> 224 <hr/>

Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis, England and Wales, per million population	42
Corresponding figure for Halesowen, per million population	22
Cancer of the lung and bronchus per million, England and Wales	552
Corresponding figure for Halesowen (26 deaths)	575
Other cancer per million, England and Wales	1,097
Corresponding figure for Halesowen	1,571

**COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
AND MORTALITY RATES FOR HALESOWEN**

	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Food Poisoning	2	6	3	—	6	7	4	3	13	8	6	1
Measles	511	285	794	10	545	39	669	49	679	15	574	14
Scarlet Fever	24	19	50	25	13	37	57	59	18	32	34	88
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	23	30	—	6	66	29	7	33	153	47	89
Dysentery	3	2	15	56	—	2	12	5	7	29	15	17
Poliomyelitis (paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Respiratory T.B. (new cases)	5	10	7	7	11	14	21	18	16	21	28	47
Meningococcal Infections	1	—	—	1	2	—	2	2	—	1	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	2	1	—	—	1	—	2	1	3	4	3
Neonatal Mortality Rate	21.4	12.4	13.6	10.6	16.8	14.4	16.6					
Infant Mortality Rate	21.4	19.3	21.9	11.9	18.4	23.1	24.1	14.3	26.1	20.5	29.5	8.9
Perinatal Mortality Rate	31.7	25.8	33.4	28.6	31.6	41.9	43.8					

SECTION B
General Provision of Health Services in the
Borough of Halesowen

1. (a) Public Health Officers

The staff of the Public Health Department is given on page 3.

(b) Laboratory Facilities

The work is carried out at the Worcester County Laboratory by the County Analyst, Mr. W. E. Jones, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Bacteriological work is done by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Infirmary, Worcester, under the Medical Director, Dr. R. J. Henderson, M.D., Ch.B.

2. Ambulance Service

The ambulance service is provided by the Worcestershire County Council and during the year six ambulances and fourteen whole time drivers were employed. The ambulances are radio controlled and a twenty-four hour service is operated from the station.

The hospitals used by the inhabitants of the Borough in addition to those in the City of Birmingham and the County Borough of Wolverhampton are the Corbett Hospital and Wordsley Hospital at Stourbridge, the Guest Hospital at Dudley, and the Bromsgrove General Hospital.

Maternity cases are taken to the Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital at Stourbridge, the Loveday Street Maternity Hospital, Birmingham and premature babies to the Unit at the Marston Green Hospital, Birmingham.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are carried by the special ambulances stationed at the Hayley Green Hospital.

3. County Council and Voluntary Agency Services

The Worcestershire County Council are the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the area. In conjunction with the W.V.S. there is now a "Home Help" and "Meals on Wheels" service.

4. Tuberculosis

Sanatorium treatment and the provision of dispensary treatment are the responsibility of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

5 Infectious Diseases

Infectious disease cases are admitted to Hayley Green Hospital. This hospital is under the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and administered by Group 17, Dudley, Stourbridge and District Hospital Group, Birmingham Region.

6. School Clinics, Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Sessions

These are provided by the County Council and the district has three centres: Hill and Cakemore, Halesowen and Cradley.

7. Welfare Foods

Distribution of welfare food is carried out from the Infant Welfare Centres, the Public Health Department, and three shops in the Borough.

SECTION C

Water

The water supplied to the Borough is from three sources. The Churchill and Hagley Pumping Stations both supply water from boreholes, and the Hayley Green Works from the Birmingham Corporation's Elan Valley Aqueduct. In the Cradley area, water is normally supplied from the Springsmere Reservoir.

The water was satisfactory in quality and quantity and was not subject to plumbo solvency.

Station	Raw Water		Treated Water		Results of Chemical Test
	No. of samples	No. free from coliform bacteria	No. of samples	No. free from coliform bacteria	
Churchill Pumping Station	51	51	51	51	Satisfactory
Hagley Pumping Station	112	112	52	52	Satisfactory
Hayley Green Works	52	45	52	51	Satisfactory
Fire Station, Halesowen	—	—	52	52	Satisfactory
Waterman's House, Waxland Road, Halesowen	—	—	12	12	Satisfactory

The average chemical results for 1965 were as follows:—

	Waxland Road	Fire Station
Number of samples	12	52
	Parts per million	
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	105	104
Chlorides (Cl)	20.5	20.1
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N) .....	.005	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N) .....	.006	Trace
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	6.7	7.2
Oxygen absorbed (3 hrs. at 27°C) .....	.16	.17
Temporary hardness	99	98
Permanent hardness	72	72
Total hardness	171	170
Iron (Fe) .....	.02	Nil
Manganese (Mn)	Nil	Nil
Fluoride (F) .....	.08	.05

Fluoride

The fluoride content at the Hayley Green Works where the water is affected by the introduction of fluoride by the City of Birmingham Water Department averaged .89 p.p.m. The water is, however, mixed with the output of the Churchill and Hagley Pumping Stations and on average is diluted to the ratio 1 : 8 approximately.

Details are set out below of the method of water supply to dwellings in the Borough:—

Number of dwellings supplied direct from public water mains	15,569
Number of persons	44,431
Number of houses supplied from stand pipe or party taps	5
Number of persons	14

The following main extensions were carried out during 1965:—

Halesowen

	Size of Main	Length Laid
Woodman Close	4"	149 yds.
Glendale Close	4"	24 yds.
Whittingham Road	6"	232 yds.
Whittingham Road	4"	834 yds.
Huntlands Estate	3"	127 yds.
Huntlands Estate	4"	391 yds.
Huntlands Estate	6"	78 yds.
School Lane	6"	113 yds.
Bourne Hill	4"	219 yds.
Witley Avenue	4"	384 yds.

Cradley

Two Gates	4"	178 yds.
Colman Hill	3"	140 yds.
Colman Hill	4"	496 yds.
Lyde Green	4"	152 yds.
Drews Holloway	2"	38 yds.
Park Lane	4"	66 yds.

Blackheath

Lodgefield Road	4"	226 yds.
Fairfield Drive	3"	60 yds.

Quinton

Stennels Avenue	3"	97 yds.
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Total	<u>4,004 yds.</u>
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Only a few isolated dwellings are not supplied with mains water.

The Public Health Department is indebted to R. H. Taylor, Esq., B.Sc., M.I.C.E., Engineer-in-Chief to the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, for this information.

Sewerage and Drainage

Sewage from the Borough is drained into the branch sewers of the Upper Stour Valley Sewerage Board. These sewers discharge into the main level outfall sewer and treatment of the flow is carried out at the Whittington irrigation farms and the disposal works at Quarry Bank.

At the farm treatment consists of passing sewage through a detritus tank and to various treatment centres for irrigation on the land. After the removal of detritus, the sewage passes through primary settlement tanks and finally humus tanks, before discharge into the River Stour on the Halesowen-Rowley Regis boundary.

The responsibility of the Upper Stour Valley Sewerage Board is for the reception and treatment of foul sewage only and in no circumstances should storm or surface water be admitted to foul sewers. In some of the older properties this does happen and the Board are anxious to eliminate this practice as soon as possible. The Board is largely dependent on the constituent authorities for the effective carrying out of this policy.

Details of the programme of works carried out during the year and to be carried out in the immediate future are as follows:—

1. New Freehold Treatment Works

Construction of these works reported up last year has continued and by the end of the year 60% of the work had been done. It is hoped to have the new plant completed before the end of 1966.

2. High Level Main Outfall Sewer and Branch Sewer No. 12

The duplication of this sewer has been completed and the new sewer has been in use for 9 months. Overflow into the River Stour has now been eliminated.

3. Branch Sewers 3 and 5 Titford Pumping Station

The Minister of Housing and Local Government has approved these schemes and work is to be commenced early in 1966. The work will take 2 years to complete at a cost of £440,000.

4. Branch Sewer No. 9

A relief sewer at a cost of £19,500 has been laid from Spring Street, Halesowen to Belle Vale and is now in use. As soon as the work of relaying the Council's sewers is complete the effect of these improvements will be to relieve the flooding which has previously taken place in Spring Street, Attwood Street, Halesowen and Over-end, Cradley.

There has been no significant changes in the existing disposal arrangements during the past year. An average of 4.0 million gallons per day have been treated at the Board's Whittington Farms, and 2.5 million gallons per day at the existing freehold works.

Upper Stour Main Drainage Authority Order 1966

The effect of this order will be to demolish the Upper Stour Valley Main Sewerage Board and the Stourbridge Main Drainage Board and the setting up of a new authority from 1st April, 1966.

The new Authority will administer the areas previously covered by the two boards except for the Tividale Area, the area now covered by the Brierley Hill Urban District Council and additional areas of the County Borough of Dudley and the Sedgley Rural District Council.

The Borough of Halesowen will have two seats out of a total of twelve in the new proposed authority.

The Public Health Department is indebted to O. C. Rowe, Esq., M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., A.M.Inst.Mun.E., M.I.P.H.E., Engineer to the Upper Stour Valley Sewerage Board for this information.

SECTION D

Housing

Details of the inspection of houses are given later in the report. In 1965, 376 dwellings were erected, 90 by the local authority and 286 privately. The Council at 31st December, 1965 owned 4,339 dwellings.

SECTION E

Diphtheria Immunisation

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics are maintained by the County Council. During the year, most babies were being immunised with triple antigen to confer immunity against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. The number of children treated at the clinics and by General Practitioners during 1965 was as follows:—

	Primary Treatment Completed	Boosting Doses
Under five years	583	207
Five to 15 years	27	853
	<hr/> 610	<hr/> 1,060

Measles Notifications, 1965

	WARDS					Total
	North	South	East	West	Central	
January	5	50	16	—	15	86
February	3	6	74	1	9	93
March	1	36	19	2	5	63
April	2	9	3	—	8	22
May	11	6	5	—	4	26
June	80	—	5	8	3	96
July	11	3	—	21	11	46
August	2	—	2	11	7	22
September	2	—	3	2	—	7
October	2	—	—	—	—	2
November	2	1	—	3	3	9
December	3	7	—	7	27	44
	<u>124</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>516</u>

Tuberculosis

Six new cases were reported during the year.

Age Periods	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females		Males	Females
0-	—	—	...	—	—
1-	—	—	...	—	—
5-	—	—	...	—	—
15-	—	1	...	—	—
20-	—	1	...	—	—
25-	—	—	...	—	—
35-	—	—	...	—	1
45-	3	—	...	—	—
55-	—	—	...	—	—
65-	—	—	...	—	—
	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	...	Nil	1
	—	—	...	—	—

Cases remaining on Tuberculosis register:—

		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
		Males	Females	Males	Females	
1964	65	50	...	5	10
1965	62	46	...	3	11

As we see by the following tables, cancer of the lung is now a much more common cause of death than tuberculosis.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis				
Year	New Notifications			Deaths
1950	37	14
1951	38	8
1952	35	9
1953	31	4
1954	47	2
1955	28	3
1956	21	1
1957	16	3
1958	18	2
1959	21	—
1960	14	3
1961	11	—
1962	7	3
1963	7	4
1964	10	1
1965	6	1

Deaths from Cancer of Lung, Bronchus				
Year	Males			Females
1950	10	1
1951	13	1
1952	9	2
1953	8	2
1954	10	1
1955	18	1
1956	12	2
1957	9	1
1958	22	2
1959	15	2
1960	27	—
1961	14	1
1962	14	2
1963	19	2
1964	15	1
1965	25	1

Notifiable Diseases, 1965

Disease	Age										
	Total	0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25—	65—Unknown
Scarlet Fever	24	—	1	3	1	3	12	3	—	1	—
Measles	511	26	76	76	62	62	205	2	1	—	1
Whooping Cough	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis Paralytic	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	21	4	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	8	4
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Food Poisoning	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Meningococcal Infections	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—
Typhoid	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

Public Health Department,
Council House,
Halesowen.
October, 1966.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

During 1965, in spite of staff changes, some steady advances were made in housing, in the control of air pollution and in the improvement of conditions in shops and offices. Preliminary survey work was carried out on two small areas in preparation for house improvement schemes.

Regular and frequent visits were paid to all types of food premises and the standards are, in general, good. It is the practices which leave something to be desired—the assistant who handles food with dirty hands, or who carelessly coughs over easily contaminated foods such as cooked meats. However frequent the inspections further progress will largely depend on the wise housewife refusing to shop where practices are less than good.

The rate at which domestic premises are brought into smoke control areas continued satisfactorily and the programme received the whole-hearted support of the population in general. In the industrial field the problem of smoke has been largely solved but some industrial premises including ironfoundries, continue to be the source of complaint in respect of fume, smoke, odour, grit and dust emission.

Complaints of noise increased. This is because so many houses have been built close to factories and because people, especially when they themselves have worked hard all day, quite rightly resent having the comfort of their homes disturbed by noise from neighbouring factory premises during the night.

I became Chairman of the General Council of the Association of Public Health Inspectors during the year and in that capacity was invited to visit the World Health Organisation in Geneva and to go to Holland, Germany, Denmark and Northern Ireland to inspect various types of food plants and to discuss environmental health matters with workers in those countries. My absences abroad and to various parts of the United Kingdom threw considerable extra work on my staff all of whom coped admirably.

Mrs. H. Deeley, who had been with the department since the 19th of January, 1942, retired on the 31st July, 1965, because of ill health. She played a most important part in the department's development during the twenty-three years she worked for the Council.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, to Dr. C. W. J. Hingston, to the Town Clerk Mr. J. B. McCooke, and his staff, to my fellow officers and my own staff for their very ready help and co-operation.

A. ARCHER,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

By the end of 1965 the total number of dwellings in the Borough was 15,730 and of these 4,339 were council owned; 1,766 of the latter were built before 1945. The Council began dealing with unfit houses in the 1930's and by the outbreak of war in 1939 had made 405 demolition and closing orders. From 1945 the position is as follows:

Part II orders:		Dwellings	
Undertakings accepted	... ..	15	
Closing orders made	... ..	24	
Demolition orders made	... ..	305	
		<hr/>	344
Part III orders :			
Clearance orders (24)	... ..	258	
Compulsory purchase orders (16)	... ..	303	
		<hr/>	561
Council owned property :			
Unfitness certificates	... ..	34	
		<hr/>	34
Total	... ..		<hr/>939 <hr/>

Unfit dwellings

Dwellings dealt with in the period 1955/65:—

Included in clearance areas	... ..	592
Dwellings on which demolition or closing orders have been made	... ..	231
Council owned dwellings found to be unfit	... ..	34

Inspection of dwellings during the year:—

Dwellings inspected for housing defects	... ..	92
Dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	48

Proceedings under Part II of the Housing Act, 1957:—

Dwellings in respect of which demolition orders were made	... ..	20
Dwellings demolished in pursuance of demolition orders		33
Dwellings in respect of which closing orders were made		3
Dwellings included in clearance orders or compulsory purchase orders which were demolished	... ..	60

Demolition and Closing Orders

Dwellings in respect of which demolition or closing orders were made:—

Central and South Wards

73, 74 and 75, Birmingham Street.

1, Bromsgrove Street.

45, Cobham Road.

19 and 21, Wall Well.

West Ward

20, 22, 24 and 26, Butchers Lane.

8 and 12, Intended Street.

150 and 152, Park Road.

North Ward

1 and 2, Gorsty Hill Road.

388 and 389, Long Lane.

3, Masters Lane.

1 and 2, Olive Lane.

20a, Park Street.

Dwellings Demolished

Central and South Wards

6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 and 48, New Street.

153, Haden Hill.

4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 45, 67 and 89, Birmingham Road.

1, 3 and 7, Hawne Bank.

138 and 238, Hagley Road.

9, Peckingham Street.

23, Alexandra Road.

6 and 7, Bromsgrove Street.

338, 340 and 342, Hagley Road.

9, 11, 13, 15 and 17, Highfield Lane.

1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55 and 57, Hill Street.

West Ward

62, off High Street.
15, Mill Street.
92, Lyde Green.
2, Little Hill.
72, Two Gates
10, Butchers Lane.
5, 7 and 9, Shelton Lane.
3, New Street.

North and East Wards

70, 73 and 74, New England.
20a, Park Street.
3, Masters Lane.
Left hand Lower Illey Cottage.
Right hand Lower Illey Cottage.
Holly Cottage, Mucklow Hill.
Ivy Cottage, Mucklow Hill.

Clearance Areas

During the year the Council made two clearance orders and one compulsory purchase order involving a total of 22 dwellings.

Title			Dwellings
Red Leasowes Road Clearance Order	...	...	6
Wall Well No. 2 Clearance Order	...	...	4
Slims Gate Compulsory Purchase Order	...	...	12

The Minister of Housing and Local Government confirmed three clearance orders involving 66 dwellings.

Title			Dwellings
Olive Lane, Hill and Cakemore	...	...	12
Coombs Wood Buildings	...	...	58
Red Leasowes Road	...	...	6

Rehousing

During the year the Council rehoused the following families from properties subject to orders under the Housing Act, 1957:—

From individual unfit property	...	...	9
From dwellings included in confirmed clearance or compulsory purchase orders	...	...	32

Improvement Areas

An important development in housing during 1965 was the declaration by the Council of two compulsory improvement areas under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1964. The object of the improvement area scheme is to extend the useful life of houses by providing the five standard amenities (a fixed bath in a bathroom, a washhand basin, hot and cold water supplies to the bath, washhand basin and sink, a water closet and satisfactory facilities for the storage of food) to all tenanted houses. Only five tenants took advantage of the possibility of improving their houses in the manner set out in the Housing Act and it is suggested that a survey ought to be undertaken to find out the reasons why so few tenants seem interested. It is thought that they will include the fact that the carrying out of improvements may involve paying more rent but there is no doubt that some older people are afraid to face the temporary dislocation of their normal living which the work would entail.

Details of the two improvement areas are set out below:—

No. 1 (Beaumont Road) Improvement Area

Type of property	No. of houses		Estimated cost of improvements
Modern	16	...	—
Improved	28	...	—
Unimproved/tenanted	30	...	£7,650
Unimproved/owner/occupier	22	...	£6,200
Less than 15 years life	3	...	—

No. 2 (Summer Hill) Improvement Area

Type of property	No. of houses		Estimated cost of improvements
Modern	3	...	—
Improved	29	...	—
Unimproved/tenanted	6	...	£2,200
Unimproved/owner/occupier	6	...	£1,400
Less than 15 years life	—	...	—

At the end of the year discussions were taking place with the various owners to decide how the improvements might best be carried out. A problem giving rise to some anxiety was the difficulty of finding the necessary capital to finance both the improvements and the essential repairs.

Improvement Grants

(a) Standard Grants

Received	Applications Approved	Refused	Grants paid	Amount paid	Number of Houses Owner/ Tenanted occupied	
1964						
66	59	7	38	£5,500	3	35
1965						
39	37	—	32	£4,737	2	30

Amenities provided:—

fixed bath	...	...	...	...	32
washhand basin	...	...	...	...	32
hot water supply	...	...	...	...	32
water closet	...	...	...	...	31
food store	...	...	...	...	27

(b) Discretionary Grants

Received	Applications Approved	Refused	Grants paid	Amount paid	Number of Houses Owner/ Tenanted occupied	
1964						
10	8	2	8	£1,835	1	7
1965						
5	4	1	6	£1,845	1	5

FOOD MANUFACTURE, PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION

Food Hygiene

The number of visits paid to food premises was not as many as was really necessary. This was partly due to staff changes and partly to increased work in other spheres such as offices and shops inspections. Undoubtedly the surest way of getting and keeping high hygienic standards in food premises is by frequent and regular visits by inspectors who are experts in food hygiene and who are also familiar with the practical aspects of the work and the problems which face the food distributor. Visits by inspectors are supplemented by a letter sent each year to the proprietors of food premises in which practical advice is given on how the various regulations may be complied with.

Premises are usually kept in good repair and are clean although there is a tendency in a few cases to neglect the cleaning of shelves and sometimes floors. So far as good practices are concerned too many staff still handle food unnecessarily. At the point of retail sale more could be done by the housewife both in avoiding shops where practices are less than satisfactory and by complimenting staff who show extra care.

Complaints

The usual crop of complaints were received about foreign bodies, mould and dirty milk bottles. These complaints are encouraged because in many cases the subsequent investigation has the effect of drawing attention to a faulty practice or to some error in control. Among the unusual was a consignment of bacon delivered to a wholesale food warehouse and which was said to have been contaminated with dock water due to a defect in the ship bringing the bacon from abroad. Samples of the meat were taken, as were swabs, and samples of the wrapping but in no case were pathogenic organisms found and the bacon was thoroughly washed and released for sale.

A steak and kidney pie contained a rubber ring and investigations at the bakery by the staff in the authority concerned disclosed that the ring was a sealing ring, part of the pipeline taking meat to the pies during filling. Arrangements have now been made to render this sort of occurrence much less likely.

Where a piece of metal was found in a can of pork brawn the canning arrangements at the factory were inspected with particular reference to the efficiency and the frequency of service of the metal detecting equipment.

A list of complaints is given overleaf; in four cases legal proceedings were taken.

Foreign bodies, mould etc.

sausage containing piece of wire
mouldy shepherds pie
loaf discoloured by oil
fruit loaf containing stone
steak and kidney pie containing rubber sealing ring
chicken (canned) affected by decomposition
dirty milk bottle
packet of peas infested with beetles
bottle of sterilized milk containing mould
bottle of sterilized milk containing foil cap
pork brawn containing piece of wire
mouldy pork pie
bottle of milk containing foreign matter
loaf of bread containing foreign matter
two mouldy loaves
dirty bacon
loaf of bread containing foreign matter
mouldy steak pie
frozen steaklet containing piece of hide
can of luncheon meat affected by black spots
mouldy custard tart
bottle of mineral water containing foreign matter
ham roll containing foreign matter
bottle of milk containing foreign matter
can of peas containing foreign matter

Legal proceedings were taken against the manufacturer of the mouldy shepherds pie and a £23 fine was imposed on each of two charges. In two other cases, those of the packet of peas infested with beetles and the mouldy custard tart, legal proceedings were taken against the vendors and the fines imposed were £20 and £4 4s. costs and £10 and £5 5s. costs respectively. In all other cases warning letters were sent to the manufacturers and vendors and advice given about storage and about rotation of stocks, where applicable.

Types of food premises

The number of food premises and their type is as follows:—

butchers	33	grocers	100
cafes	12	wholesalers (greens and	
confectionery (bread, cakes,		grocery)	5
sweets)	19	licensed premises	83
fishmongers (wet fish only)	1	tobacconists and news-	
fish and chips	14	agents (selling sweets)	25
greengrocers	34	bakehouses	1
school canteens	27	hospitals etc.	3
works canteens	25		

Milk Distribution

Sixty-three licences are issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963, in respect of premises within the Borough. The milk is supplied by seven firms which process and bottle the milk outside the Borough. Untreated milk is supplied by one farmer whose premises are in an adjoining authority.

In addition to the chemical samples eight samples were checked for keeping quality and all were satisfactory.

Ice Cream

Twenty samples of ice-cream were sent to the laboratory for examination; all were bought from mobile vans which operated from bases outside the Borough. The sampling results were as follows:—

Grade I	9
Grade II	2
Grade III	4
Grade IV	5

Samples in grades III and IV suggest faulty technique in manufacture or distribution, or both, and where these results are obtained they are notified to the vendor and to the authority in whose areas the vans are normally kept.

Bacteriological Sampling of Food

Thirty-three samples of food including canned meats, sliced cooked meat, cream confectionery, and lettuce were submitted for bacteriological examination. In one instance the samples were taken because a doctor reported that a patient who worked in a food shop was excreting salmonellae. All the samples of food were satisfactory

In a second case samples of oxtail soup and soup powder were examined at the request of a doctor who was investigating a complaint of vomiting by one of his patients. The results in this instance showed that the bacterial counts were low and pathogens were absent.

Food Condemned

The amounts of food condemned, other than meat condemned in slaughterhouses, were as follows:—

vegetables	81 cans
fruit	513 cans
soup	39 cans
meat	193 cans
pickles	14 jars
jam	7 jars
fish	26 lbs. and 68 cans
milk pudding	24 cans
milk and cream	57 cans
confectionery	922 pieces
cheese	3 cartons
sugar	24 packets
breakfast cereal	61 packets
pickled brisket	72 lbs.
custard powder	1 can
salad cream	1 jar
vinegar	4 bottles

Sampling of Food and Drugs

258 samples of foods and drugs were taken during the year; the aim was to sample foods which form a substantial part of the diet rather than those which the average person rarely buys. They were as follows:—

Foods

food					examined	irregular
almonds, ground	...	...	...	...	1	
baking powder	...	...	...	...	5	
beverages	...	...	...	...	3	
butter	...	...	...	...	11	
cereal products	...	...	...	...	4	
cheese	...	...	...	...	11	
chocolate confectionery	...	...	...	...	3	1
coffee	...	...	...	...	4	
cream and cream confectionery	...	...	...	...	7	1
cooking fats	...	...	...	...	1	
fish paste and fish cakes	...	...	...	...	3	
flavourings and colourings	...	...	...	...	5	
fruit (canned and dried)	...	...	...	...	12	
fruit juice	...	...	...	...	4	
herbs, spices and condiments	...	...	...	...	4	
ice-cream	...	...	...	...	2	
margarine	...	...	...	...	4	
marzipan	...	...	...	...	1	
meat paste	...	...	...	...	1	
meat products	...	...	...	...	73	7
milk	...	...	...	...	31	1
mincemeat	...	...	...	...	2	
preserves	...	...	...	...	8	
sauce and salad cream	...	...	...	...	4	
soft drinks	...	...	...	...	4	
soup	...	...	...	...	9	
sugar and sugar confectionery	...	...	...	...	7	
vegetables	...	...	...	...	3	
vinegar	...	...	...	...	5	
wines and spirits	...	...	...	...	3	
infant foods	...	...	...	...	3	
TOTAL					238	10

The irregular samples were chocolate liqueurs, desiccated and devoid of centres, ‘rich thick milk’ which was sterilized but no declaration made, ‘cream’ doughnuts where the cream contained no milk fat and canned meats deficient in meat.

Drugs

drug						examined
halibut liver oil capsules	...	...	...	...	...	1
penicillin lozenges	...	...	...	...	...	1
vitamin capsules	...	...	...	...	...	1
eye drops	...	...	...	...	...	1
Entero vioform tablets	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gees linctus pastilles	...	...	...	...	...	1
aspirin and dover powder compound tablets	...	...	...	...	...	1
benzyl penicillin tablets	...	...	...	...	...	1
butobarbitone tablets B.P.C.	...	...	...	...	...	1
dienoestrol tablets	...	...	...	...	...	1
vitamin preparations	...	...	...	...	...	3
thyroid tablets	...	...	...	...	...	1
Aquaclene	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bradosol tablets	...	...	...	...	...	1
chloramine tablets	...	...	...	...	...	1
cyclobarbitone tablets	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sterotabs	...	...	...	...	...	1
stomach mixture tablets	...	...	...	...	...	1
TOTAL						20

Meat Inspection

There were six licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough and killing was carried out in five of them. Every animal killed was inspected, in most cases during slaughter or immediately afterwards. The slaughterhouses are all attached to retail butchers shops and in every case the quality of animal slaughtered was high and the amount of meat condemned correspondingly small. Animals affected with tuberculosis are so few that specimens are always sent to the Public Health Laboratory for a confirmatory diagnosis and if positive are referred to the Divisional Veterinary Officer so that he may carry out investigations at the farm.

Diseases and conditions affecting parts or organs of animals inspected (other than tuberculosis and cysticercus bovis).

Disease or Condition				Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Total
abscesses	...	...	...	15	1	3	19
actinobacillosis	...	...	...	1	—	—	1
ascaris	...	...	...	—	—	20	20
cirrhosis	...	...	...	9	—	4	13
congestion	...	...	...	—	—	1	1
contamination	...	...	...	—	2	—	2
cysticercus ovis	...	...	...	—	1	—	1
echinococcus cysts	...	...	...	7	3	—	10
fascioliasis	...	...	...	8	8	—	16
fatty degeneration	...	...	...	—	1	—	1
hydronephrosis	...	...	...	—	—	1	1
inflammation	...	...	...	—	—	1	1
parasites (unidentified)	...	...	...	2	15	—	17
pericarditis	...	...	...	1	1	8	10
peritonitis	...	...	...	1	—	3	4
pleurisy	...	...	...	7	—	9	16
pneumonia	...	...	...	2	1	11	14
telangiectasis	...	...	...	2	—	—	2
				55	33	61	149

Details of the animals slaughtered and the amount of meat rejected as unfit

			Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Animals slaughtered and inspected	...	...	332	10	Nil	2,944	826
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCICI:							
whole carcasses condemned	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	49	2	Nil	31	55
percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	...	...	14.8	20.0	Nil	1.05	6.7
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:							
whole carcasses condemned	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5
percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.6
CYSTICERCOSIS:							
carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	...	...	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
generalised and totally condemned	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The total weight of meat rejected as unfit in slaughterhouses was 7 cwt. 69 lbs. compared with 12 cwt. 96 lbs. in 1964.

AIR POLLUTION

Domestic

During 1965 further progress was made with the smoke control programme and on 1st July an area came into operation which contained 1,135 houses of which 508 were council houses. The Council decided to install in council houses solid fuel room heaters where water heating is required in addition to space heating and gas fires for rooms only used intermittently, with the proviso that those tenants who prefer to retain open fires may do so. The initial reaction to this policy by council tenants was not wholly favourable mainly because there was some resistance to the use of room heaters. This was quickly overcome and several tenants who had firm views about retaining the open fire subsequently asked to be allowed to have room heaters when they discovered from visiting neighbours the advantages of this type of appliance. Another factor in promoting the popularity of the room heater is the difficulty which many people have in using gas coke as the smokeless fuel on an open fire.

Many people now enquire when their houses can be expected to be included in a smoke control area—complaints about smoke control are few.

Smoke Control Programme

	Premises	Dwellings	Acres
Covered by orders made up to 31st December, 1965	6,508	6,397	2,702
Estimated addition covered by orders to be made during 1966 ...	1,242	1,111	1,195
Final objective (the whole of the Borough)	16,150	15,650	5,237

The Borough of Halesowen No. 22 Smoke Control Order, comprising 1,135 houses covering 322 acres, became operative on 1st July, 1965. The operative date of the order had been delayed because of the necessity of holding a public inquiry resulting from an objection by a Council tenant.

The following table shows the progress achieved by December, 1965:—

Order	Operative date	Dwellings	Acreage
Lapal No. 1	Nov., 1961	489	82
Highfields No. 1	Oct., 1961	93	3
Howley Grange No. 1 ...	Jan., 1962	375	37
Central No. 1 Grange Cres.	Nov., 1962	57	5

Central No. 2 Woodman Rd.	Nov., 1962	14	2
Long Innage, Cradley ...	Nov., 1962	50	5
Dencil Close, Cradley ...	Nov., 1962	54	4
Holcroft Road, Cradley ...	Nov., 1962	24	3
Central No. 3 Town Centre	Dec., 1962	339	19
Bath Meadow, Cradley ...	Nov., 1962	70	4
Furlong Lane, Cradley ...	Nov., 1962	30	2
Central No. 4 Cobham Rd.	April, 1963	31	2
Hawne No. 1 ...	April, 1963	8	1
No. 14 Cradley Fields ...	July, 1963	22	3
No. 15 Hope Street ...	May, 1963	65	5
No. 16 Cocksheds Farm ...	May, 1963	20	2
No. 17 Spring Street ...	Sept., 1963	38	5
No. 18 Hayley Green ...	Nov., 1963	1,047	520
No. 19 Colley Gate ...	Nov., 1963	36	3
No. 20 Colley Gate ...	July, 1964	35	3
No. 21 Hasbury ...	June, 1964	51	301
No. 22 ...	July, 1965	1,135	322
No. 23 Lapal ...	Nov., 1964	554	87
No. 24 ...	July, 1966*	578	81
No. 25 ...	June, 1967*	978	1,181
No. 26 ...	July, 1966*	71	6
Total		6,264	2,688

* Proposed dates (dwellings inspected during 1965)

Industrial

In many areas where houses and factories are intermixed complaints will arise of air pollution from industrial sources. This is particularly true where the industries include ironfoundries which, however well they are conducted, are likely to cause local nuisance from time to time. Complaints are received about the emission of grit and dust, smoke, fumes and odours and in most cases the complaints are justified. One of the difficulties in dealing with the particular problem of ironfoundries is that the answers to all the technical difficulties are not yet known; another is the absence of standards relating to allowable emissions of grit and dust.

During 1965 a firm was prosecuted for not taking all practicable steps to minimise the emission of grit and dust from a cupola and was fined £20.

Measurement of Air Pollution

Two stations using combined smoke filter-volumetric sulphur dioxide apparatus measuring the sulphur dioxide and suspended matter in the air have continued to be used. They are No. 6 situated at the Public Health Department, Council House, Halesowen, and No. 7 at the Public Library, Long Lane, Hill and Cakemore.

The average daily results are given below:—

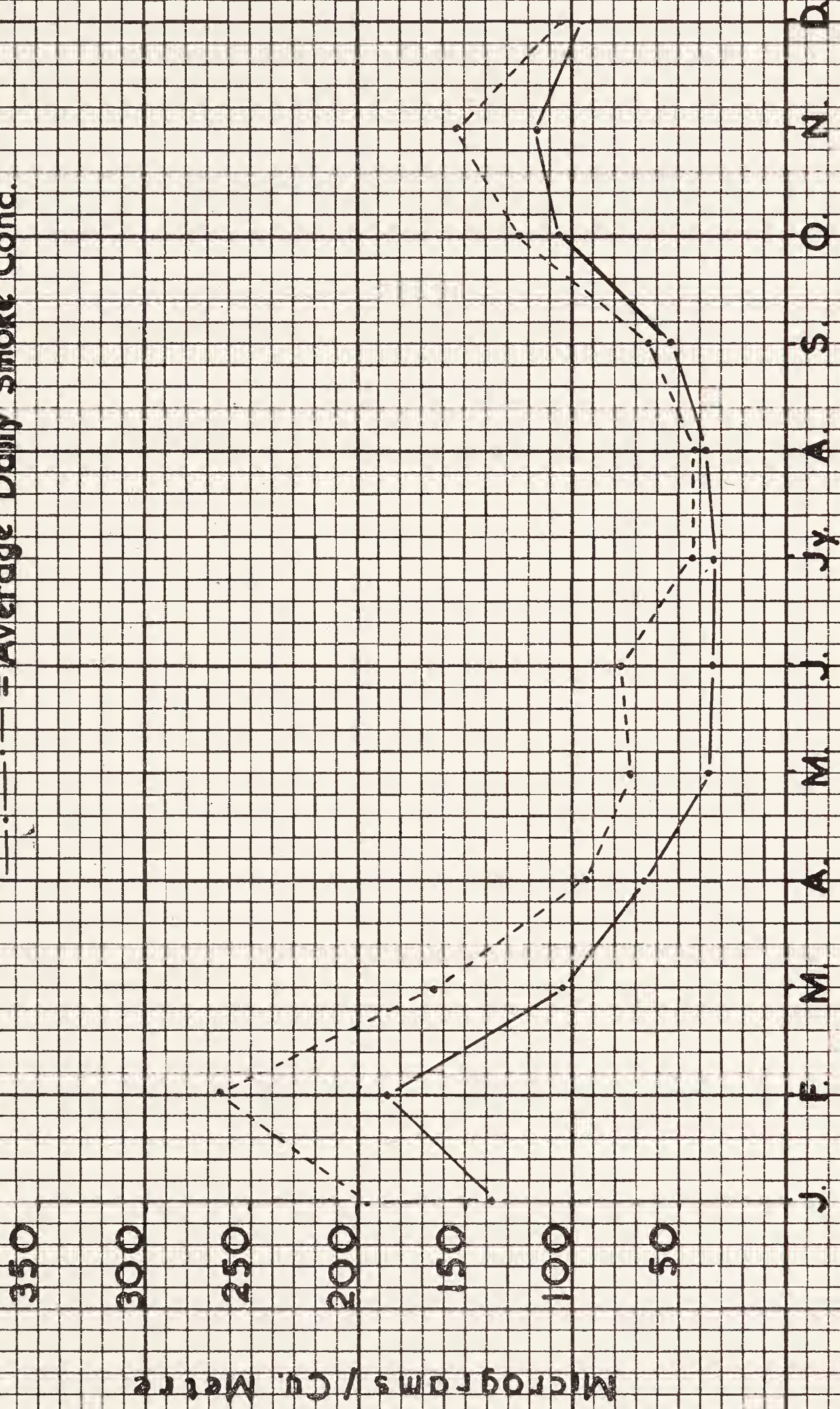
Average Daily Smoke Concentration												
Micrograms per cubic metre												
Station	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
6	...	137	188	104	69	36	35	37	55	108	132	94
7	...	150	211	129	85	39	32	38	62	118	111	104

Average Daily Sulphur Dioxide Concentration												
Micrograms per cubic metre												
Station	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
6	...	195	255	166	94	66	43	41	66	127	158	107
7	...	211	298	199	133	72	75	62	92	161	160	117

The amount of sulphur dioxide varies according to the amount of coal used. Most of it comes from the domestic fire. This is shown on the following graphs.

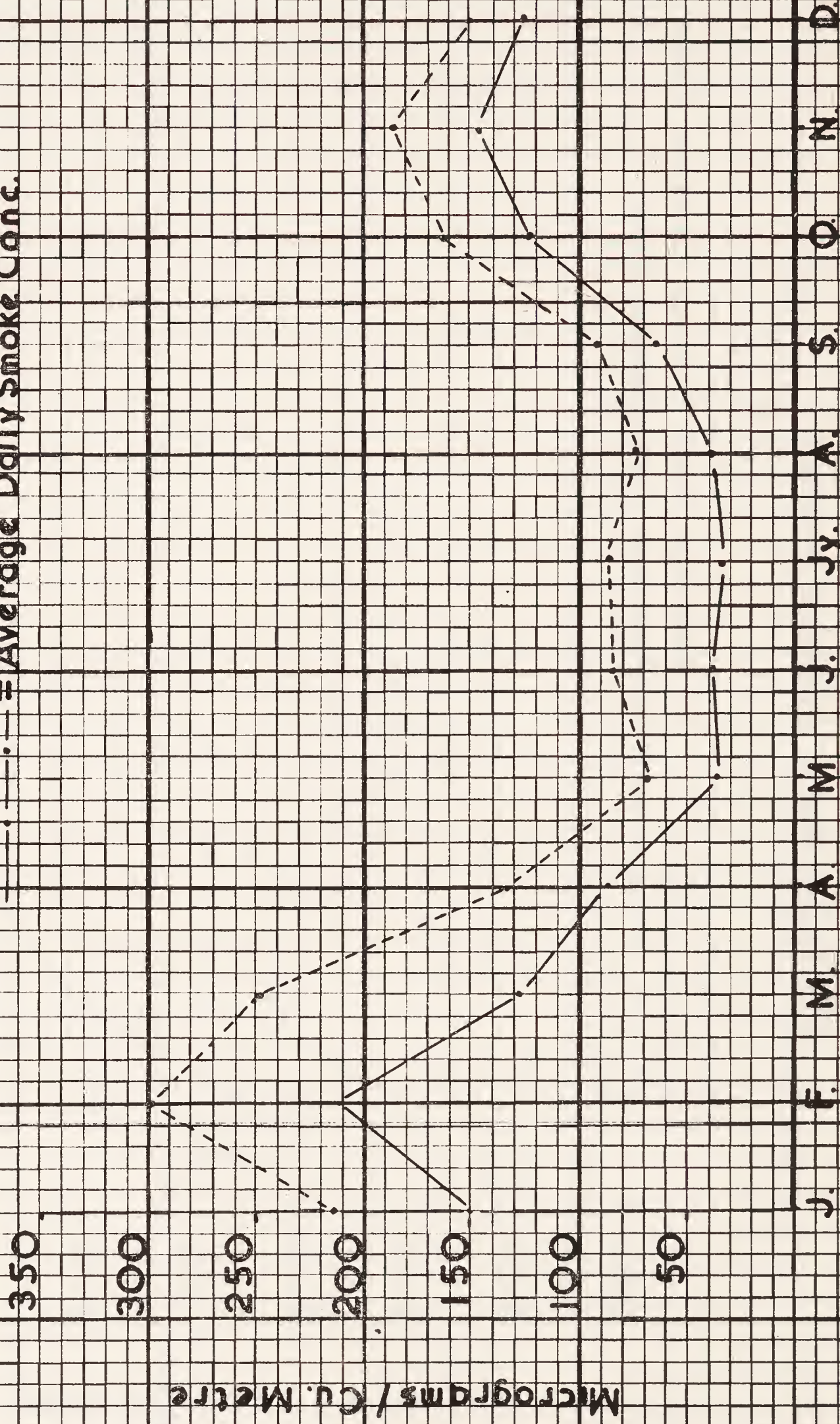
STATION No. 6 (Council House)

----- = Average Daily Sulphur Dioxide Conc.
 -.-.-.- = Average Daily Smoke Conc.



STATION No.7 (Library Long Lane)

----- = Average Daily Sulphur Dioxide Conc.
 -.-.-.- = Average Daily Smoke Conc.



NOISE PROBLEMS

Complaints of noise are mainly about factories where night shifts and week-end working are carried on. The noise may either be from the type of machinery used or may result from the handling of materials. Complaints are tending to increase partly because more firms are working at night for economic reasons and partly because people are becoming less tolerant of noise which interferes with their leisure time. The investigation of noise complaints nearly always presents a good many difficulties because it is not easy to fix a standard where any particular noise can be said to be a nuisance and also because people's reaction to noise varies so much.

Among the complaints dealt with are those given below:—

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| (a) | noise from heat treatment workshop | new extension built incorporating loading and storage bay; |
| (b) | noise from light engineering workshop | factory closed; |
| (c) | noise from foundry dust extraction plant ... | silencing unit installed; |
| (d) | noise from engineering works | night shift discontinued. |

OFFICES AND SHOPS

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

This was the first complete year of operation of this Act, designed to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the employees in all types of offices and shops.

181 visits were made to premises in connexion with the Act; most of the premises inspected were found to be satisfactory but letters were sent to 24 occupiers asking them to comply with one or more of the regulations.

The most common contraventions were:—

absence of thermometer	...	...	14
lack of first aid materials	...	...	17
no hot water supplies	...	...	5
failure to display an abstract of the Act	...		21
absence of handrails to staircase	...	...	4

Although a few occupiers were reluctant to comply with requests, usually because of the cost involved, in most cases when the premises were next visited the necessary work had been carried out.

Six accidents were reported during the year as follows:—

Injury to hip due to falling on beer cellar steps ...	firm asked to provide an additional handrail
Injury to barmaid's arm whilst closing a door ...	inquiries made, no action warranted
Injury to the head and shoulder of the driver of an oil tanker whilst clean- ing oil spillage from his vehicle	the firm were reconstructing the loading bay and this should prevent oil spillage
Injury to the hand of an office cleaner who fell whilst carrying a bottle ...	inquiries made, no action warranted
The driver of a vehicle twisted his knee when getting down from his cab	no action
Injury to the left hip of a barmaid who slipped when moving a table	no action

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Public Health Department is responsible for the collection and disposal of refuse and of salvage. Street cleaning, gulley emptying, snow removal and the management of public conveniences is under the control of the Borough Surveyor.

Refuse Collection

About 18,000 dustbins were emptied regularly by five teams, each consisting of four loaders and a driver. Some vehicles are end-loading and some side-loading but the latter are obsolescent and are gradually being replaced. The workmen are provided with protective clothing, overalls and gloves and use bin trolleys to lighten the work. Each vehicle tows a trailer to collect paper salvage.

It was increasingly difficult both to retain men or to get new recruits to the service because the basic wage rate in a district so near to Birmingham is far too low for what is a relatively unattractive job. The solution is not helped when almost every local authority in the area uses a different method of deciding a bonus scheme and pays wages which vary within very wide limits. The incentive bonus scheme in operation was under review at the end of the year.

Refuse Disposal

The amount of tipping space is rapidly diminishing but consideration was given to the possibility of acquiring additional land for tipping purposes. With the changing character of refuse and bearing in mind the shortage of land in the district the question of constructing an incinerator is still being explored.

Provision of Dustbins

The demand for dustbins supplied under the Council's scheme continued. The bins are British Standard $3\frac{1}{4}$ cubic feet capacity and a charge of 6s. a year is included in the rate demand to provide for this service. The scheme was started in 1959 and since that time about 5,000 bins have been provided to private dwelling houses. Together with the dustbins at council houses more than half the houses in the Borough now have council owned dustbins and the time has come when it would be administratively cheaper to discontinue entirely a separate charge for dustbin provision at individual houses.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

10.	Area (statute acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,247 acres
11.	Population at 30th June, 1965 (Registrar-General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	45,440 persons
12.	Total refuse collected	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,762 tons
13.	Percentage of total refuse collected (tons) weighed	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
14.	Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.8
15.	Number of premises from which refuse is collected	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,169
16.	Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly	...	...	...	...	...	...	95%
17.	Average haul, single journey to final disposal point	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.5 miles
18.	Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
19.	Total refuse disposed of	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,012 tons
20.	Methods of disposal (salvage excluded)—controlled tipping	...	...	...	...	...	...	100%

PUBLIC CLEANSING COSTING RETURN

Cost Statement 1965-66

		Collection	Disposal	Totals	Percentage of total gross expenditure
Revenue Account					
GROSS EXPENDITURE:					
(a) Labour	...	£ 20,199	£ 1,658	£ 21,857	% 53
(b) Transport	...	12,769	1,120	13,889	33
(c) Plant, etc.	...	1,919	3,334	5,253	13
(d) Other items	...	196	158	354	1
Total gross expenditure		35,083	6,270	41,353	100
GROSS INCOME		1,944	1,799	3,743	—
NETT COST		33,139	4,471	37,610	—
Unit Costs					
Gross cost per ton, labour only	...	s. d. 27 4	s. d. 2 2	s. d. 29 6	
Gross cost per ton, transport only	...	17 3	1 6	18 9	
Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	...	44 11	5 11	50 10	
Net cost per 1,000 population		£ 729	£ 98	£ 827	
Net cost per 1,000 premises		2,049	277	2,326	

Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse (including salvage) for each resident, per week, 3.8d.

Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse (including salvage) for each premise, per week, 10.7d.

VEHICLE REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

The repair and maintenance of the council's vehicles is carried out by the vehicle repair and maintenance section of the department. The staff consists of one motor engineer, two engineering craftsmen and one garage skilled attendant. It was not possible during the year to appoint a further apprentice mechanic because the schools could not find a boy sufficiently interested in this type of work.

By the end of the year the following vehicles were being repaired and serviced:—

Public Health Department

7 refuse freighters
2 trucks
2 vans
2 tractors
1 official car

Highways

3 trucks
1 van
2 roadsweepers
2 gulley emptiers
1 road roller
1 compressor
1 vibrator roller

Housing Repairs

3 vans
1 truck

Parks

1 van
2 tractors
2 autoscythes

Vehicle Testing

The testing of vehicles in accordance with the Ministry of Transport's vehicle testing scheme is carried out by the council and during the year 360 vehicles were examined of which 34 failed the test. The main defects found in the vehicles were defective brakes (10) defective steering (31), and defective lighting (4).

GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

Swimming Pool

The council's swimming pool, opened in July, 1963, is 110 feet long and 42 feet wide. It varies in depth from 3 feet to 11 feet 6 inches and holds 183,000 gallons of water. The filtration plant consists of four high pressure filters and ancillary equipment to give a complete turnover of water every three hours. Anthracite is used as the filtering media.

Water samples are taken at intervals during the day to check the water for free chlorine and pH value. Occasional samples were taken by the Public Health Department for chemical and bacteriological examination and all were satisfactory. The number of swimmers using the pool in 1965 was 160,278.

Licensing Act, 1961

One new application for registration was received.

Petroleum (Regulations) Acts

Licences were issued in respect of 90 premises storing petroleum spirit, 38 of these relating to premises where petrol is offered for sale. 20 licences were issued in respect of premises storing petroleum mixture used in connexion with industrial processes.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Six licences were issued for the keeping of pet shops.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

One licence was issued authorising the use of premises in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Riding Establishments Act, 1964

One licence was issued authorising the use of premises in accordance with the above-mentioned Act.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Treatments were carried out at 230 dwelling houses and 38 business premises. In each case treatment was for a minor infestation.

Factories Act, 1961

406 visits were made to factories in connexion with matters under sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Act.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (Factories Act 1961)

		Number of cases in which defects were found			
Particulars		Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Reference From H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...		—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...		—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...		—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...		—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...		—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) ...		—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ...		—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...		14	12	—	5
(c) Not separate for sexes ...		—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences to home work) ...		—	—	—	—
Total		14	12	—	5
Premises		Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authority ...		9	—	—	—
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority ...		272	406	14	14
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...		—	—	—	—
Total		281	406	14	14

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Drainage, public sewers	...	...	...	...	116
Drains	...	...	...	...	160
Sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	34

Nuisances (Section 93)

Premises	...	...	...	...	330
Keeping of animals	35

Infectious diseases	30
Food poisoning	60

Offensive trades	1
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Verminous premises

Council houses	8
Other houses	11

Watercourses, streams	5
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Public Cleansing

Dustbins	55
Tips	74
Accumulations	21
Refuse collection	34

HOUSING ACT, 1957

Number of houses inspected and recorded	...	...	...	...	15
Houses in multiple occupation	...	...	...	...	11
Individual unfit	...	...	...	...	81
Slum clearance	...	...	...	...	248
Improvement grants	...	...	...	...	548

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Nuisances	...	...	...	...	52
Observations	...	...	...	...	57
Visits to plant	...	...	...	...	37
Atmospheric pollution measurement	...	...	...	...	490
Smoke Control Areas	...	...	...	...	5,016

Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
Noise control	...	...	...	...	...	...	176
OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT	...						181
PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 and 1936	...						41
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949	...						453
FACTORIES ACTS, 1937-1959							
With power	...	...	...	...	...	...	406
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955							
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cafes, canteens, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Greengrocers, fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Markets	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	561
Other food premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
School canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Street vendors	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
LAND CHARGES	...	...	...	...	...	...	629
MISCELLANEOUS	...	...	...	...	...	...	549

